

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Our Special Correspondent Writes Entertainingly of Things at Washington.

The distinguishing feature of the republican national committee, in session in Washington Friday and Saturday of last week, is the growing conviction among the delegates of the sincerity of President Roosevelt in his assertion that he will not be a candidate for reelection to the presidency. There has been much skepticism and no little annoyance felt on the part of politicians in the republican ranks because the president has abstained from again affirming in a public statement his attitude on the third-term question. But the belief has now taken hold that Mr. Roosevelt is out of the running and numerous likely candidates are being talked of, Taft being the general favorite. The sentiment seems to be largely that voiced by United States Marshal D. C. Bailey, national committeeman by proxy for Colorado, who says emphatically that his state will be solid for Taft when it appreciates that Mr. Roosevelt will not accept the nomination and that this is the feeling which prevails throughout his part of the country, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Nebraska.

The house of representatives sent the following message to the Oklahoma legislature under a resolution offered by representative Henry, of Texas, and adopted amid great applause: "The house of representatives acknowledges the greeting of the state of Oklahoma and requests the speaker to send her good wishes for her future progress and greatness."

Through the American ambassador at Tokio, the state department has been informed that Baron Kogoro Takahira will in all probability succeed Viscount Aoki as Japanese ambassador at Washington, and the appointment will undoubtedly be acceptable to this government. While the reasons for the recall of Viscount Aoki and the prospective appointment of Takahira are not known, the surmise is that Japan wishes to have in Washington a man of pronounced views and famous for his ability to stick to the spirit as well as the letter of the instructions of his government during the pendency of negotiations for the restriction of Japanese emigration to the United States. Baron Takahira is a man of strong personality and has earned the reputation in Washington, where he represented his country as minister from 1901 to 1905, of being a diplomatist of the greatest skill and one who presses negotiations in which his country is interested with extreme positiveness. He is on good terms with President Roosevelt.

The interest of the convention of the rivers and harbors congress, in session in Washington this week, was centered in the speech of Jas. J. Hill, one of the greatest figures in the business world today, who was introduced as "a wizard of transportation and one of the greatest railroad builders in the world." The most intense enthusiasm was created among the 2,500 delegates by Mr. Hill's declaration that the railroads of the country would support cordially any proper plan for the development of the legitimate waterways of the United States. He produced figures to show that the traffic of the country had become so great and was increasing

so tremendously that it was beyond the physical power of the railroads to handle it. He made a most important and significant statement of the attitude of railroad men toward legislation which has been directed against rail carriers in America, and declared that all the railroads asked was permission to conduct their business in a proper way under fair regulations and fair laws.

Chairman Towler, of the house finance committee, in his appointment of a subcommittee to draft a financial bill, totally ignored Representative Burton, although Speaker Cannon had put Mr. Burton on the committee expressly for the influence he would have in handling the situation. Mr. Fowler selected two democrats, Mr. Lewis, of Georgia, and Mr. Gillespie, of Texas, and two republicans whose views coincide with those of the chairman of the committee. However, it is not expected that this house committee on banking and currency will be of much assistance, as Speaker Cannon is looking to the senate for a bill and it is evident that President Roosevelt, too, is depending upon Senator Aldrich and his advisers for a financial measure that will be in every way adequate to cope with the situation.

"That cannot be. I cannot serve beyond my present term. I am grateful to the American people for their kindly feeling toward me, but somebody else must carry on the work." These were the words uttered by President Roosevelt when he was told by the prominent Pennsylvania banker, Samuel Watts, of Lewiston, Pa., that the people of that state wanted him for another term. There are many circumstantial events which indicate the decision of the president to be final, and the belief is current among leading politicians that this officially to the people of the country. There is ample evidence that Mr. Roosevelt proposes to give every assistance in his power to bring about the nomination of Secretary Taft. He believes that Taft will be nominated and elected and he will stand by him to the last.

Senator Stone's Memory Refreshed

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, an independent democratic paper, gives the following pertinent reasons why Senator Stone should not be given a second term:

"Senator Stone's remark in a letter to a Jasper county friend that he knew no reason why an exception should be made in his case to the Missouri rule of giving two terms to a senator was unfortunate. It indicates an impairment of the senator's memory. The Post-Dispatch will refresh his memory with a few convincing reasons:

"Because in the disguise of a friend of the people and the representative of a sham public health society he lobbied for the baking powder trust against the repeal of its infamous pure food law. In their efforts to aid Stone in preventing the repeal of this trust-promoting law, the agents of the baking powder trust bribed members of the state legislature and caused the most disgraceful boodle scandal in the history of Missouri.

"2. Because he used his personal political influence to shape legislation in behalf of the brewers against the beer tax.

"3. Because he opposed the increase of the assessments of the disgracefully under-assessed street railway corporations.

"4. Because while publicly denouncing the book trust he induced Gov. Stephens to appoint a friend on the state book commission, and then, for a large fee, obtained a contract for a book concern in the

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"5. Because in the name of the state and with the consent of the attorney-general, he brought suit under the anti-trust law against the tobacco trust, but when his St. Louis friends had sold out at high price to the trust he failed to proceed with the suit.

"6. Because, according to Treasurer Orear, he advised the state democratic campaign committee to conceal the source of a railroad campaign contribution, paid by Railway Lobbyist Phelps.

"7. Because his work for corporations in betrayal of the interests of the people justified Lobbyist Phelps' remark: 'We both suck eggs, but Stone hides the shells.'

"8. Because he has been the head and front of the opposition to the Missouri reform movement.

"There are other reasons, but these will suffice to mark Senator Stone as unfit to represent Missouri in the United States senate."

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